

# TOOLBOX TALKS

The Upside of Safety



## What is a MEWP?

A MEWP is the new ANSI standard naming of Aerial Lifts and Scissor Lifts. MEWP stands for Mobile Elevating Work Platform and in 2020 a new ANSI standard for MEWP's went into effect. With the new standard, the days of only watching a video before operating a lift are over. Below lists the new requirements from the standard.

### Training Requirements

According to the new ANSI Standard, anyone operating or occupying a MEWP must be properly trained, qualified, fit and authorized for the work they are performing. Below are the training requirements:

- Operators and occupants must be trained on the hazards of MEWP's and the specific job site hazards that are present.
- Operators must be trained on the following:
  - Fall protection requirements and location of anchors
  - Stability of the lift
  - Safe use of MEWP accessories
  - Manufacturers warning and instructions
  - A trained operator must be present on the ground to lower the platform in the event of an emergency.
  - Hands on evaluation with the controls and operating procedures for the MEWP they are working on.
- Supervisors must receive training that includes proper MEWP selection, requirements for users and operators, identifying hazards and managing risks, and how to read and follow the instructions in the MEWP's operator manual.
- Your company must maintain the training records for employees who have been trained.

### Other New Requirements

- A qualified person must perform a risk assessment that identifies the task to be undertaken, the location and timing, and all associated risks before use of the MEWP.
- A qualified person will identify the procedures and control measures needed to protect workers
- Toe guards are required on new lifts
- Chains or flexible gates will be prohibited on lifts.
- New classifications for lifts (see picture)
- Lifts must have an annual inspection from the manufacturer



